

Delaware Board of Mental Health & Chemical Dependency Professionals

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New Board, New Look

On July 12, 2004, the Delaware General Assembly passed Senate Bill 86 which created the Licensed Chemical Dependency Professional (LCDP) license. The existing Board of Professional Counselors of Mental Health absorbed the LCDP license and became the Board of Professional Counselors of Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Professionals. The composition of the Board changed from 7 members to 10 members. Since Senate Bill 86 became law, 21 licenses have been approved for Licensed Chemical Dependency Professionals.

On June 30, 2005, the Delaware General Assembly passed House Bill 215 which created the Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) and Licensed Associate Marriage and Family Therapist (LAMFT) licenses. The existing Board of Professional Counselors of Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Professionals became the Board of Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Professionals. The composition of the Board changed from 10 members to 13 members. Since House Bill 215 became law, 5 licenses have been approved for Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists by reciprocity. The Board is currently drafting its rules and regulations to enable it to approve candidates for the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB) exam.

The Board is composed of three Licensed Professional Counselors of Mental Health (LPCMH), three LCDP members, three LMFT members and four public members.

Online License Renewals

How will it work? Around the first week of August 2006, you will receive a postcard from the Division of Professional Regulation. This postcard will be your only renewal notice. You will then be able to go to the Division's website, log on to Online License Services and renew online. To renew online, you must pay the renewal fee by credit card.

What paperwork will I send in? When you renew online, no paperwork is required. You will attest electronically that you have completed your continuing education (CE) and that your certification in the certifying organization that you used to obtain your license is up-to-date.

What if I do not have access to the internet? You may call the number on the postcard to request a paper renewal application to be mailed to the address on file with the Division.

Will there be an audit? Yes. After the renewal is over, the Board will conduct a random audit of CE. Those selected for audit will be required to submit certificates of completion of CE and proof of current national certification in their certifying organization.

Is it secure? Yes. The Division's website uses the same security as banking institutions.



Visit us at:

www.dpr.delaware.gov



*"When you renew online
no paperwork is required.
You will attest
electronically that you
have completed your
continuing education
requirements."*



Online License Verifications

The Division of Professional Regulation is working on making several online services available to its professional licensees. One new service is online license verifications. You can verify a licensee's name, license number, license type, license status, issue date, expiration date and public disciplines all from your computer 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

To verify a license, simply visit the Division's website, click on [Verify License Online](#). You can search the licensee database by last name, license number, license type, county, city, state or zip code.

Change Contact Information Online

Another service the Division of Professional Regulation now offers is the ability for a licensee to change his or her contact information online. It is **extremely** important that the Division has current contact information for each licensee.

To change your contact information online, visit the Division of Professional Regulation [website](#), and click on [Change Contact Information Online](#). After you register for a User ID and Password, you will be able to change your address, phone number and email address at your convenience.

Other Online Enhancements

As of January 2006, Board [agendas](#) and [approved Minutes](#) are posted on the State's online meeting calendar.

Have you lost or misplaced your license certificate? You can [request a duplicate license](#) online and pay the fee by credit card.

Military Deployment

Senate Bill 206 was passed into law to protect active duty military, activated reservists or members of the National Guard from having their professional licenses or permits expire during active military deployments. Active duty military, activated reservists or members of the National Guard who qualify can have their professional licenses continue during active military deployments. The protection from license or permit expiration provided under this provision does not void or limit the obligations of a Qualifying Person to meet all requirements of licensure as required under the applicable statutory requirements for which the license or permit is sought. A Qualifying Person means a member of the Active Duty Military, National Guard or the military reserve who is deployed by the President of the United States or the Governor of this State.

Voluntary Treatment Option (VTO)

The Delaware Board of Mental Health & Chemical Dependency Professionals is one of the 27 boards within the Division of Professional Regulation that participates in the VTO Program. Eligible licensed professional counselors of mental health, chemical dependency professionals and marriage and family therapists with chemical dependency or impairment can access this confidential assistance program for treatment.



The program provides an alternative, non-disciplinary approach for licensees who have not committed an offense, other than the status of being chemically dependent or impaired, which would constitute grounds for discipline under Section 3009, of the Mental Health & Chemical Dependency Professionals statute.

A licensee can self-refer or a third party can refer confidentially. You can download an application and referral form at the Division of Professional Regulation's website at www.dpr.delaware.gov and click on the Voluntary Treatment Option link.

How does the process work?

- Submit an [application/referral form](#) to the Division of Professional Regulation.
- Complete an assessment with a licensed provider within 30 days of notification of eligibility.
- If treatment is recommended, meet with Division and Board designees to sign an agreement, which outlines treatment plan and practice limitations, if any.
- Access the prescribed level of treatment with licensed provider.

Program Benefits

- Provides access to treatment for impaired professionals.
- Protects the public.
- Promotes early intervention.
- Enables the licensee to continue to practice provided they comply with the VTO agreement and do not commit any professional infractions.

You may contact the Program Coordinator at (302) 744-4503 or by email at kay.warren@state.de.us or contact the Board's VTO designee, Mike Kriner, LCDP, through the Board's office at (302) 744-4534.

Message from the Board President

"To face tomorrow with the thought of using the methods of yesterday is to envision life as a standstill. Each one of us, no matter what our task, must search for new and better methods – for even that which we now do well must be done better tomorrow." JAMES F. BELL.

On behalf of the members of the Board of Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Professionals (MHCDP), I like to welcome all of you to the first edition of the MHCDP Board newsletter. We envision that this newsletter is a perfect vehicle to create discussion, provide knowledge and answer questions regarding the three disciplines and all the exceptional professionals this board represents. Thus for our inauguration issue, I would like to briefly overview our mission and end with some details.

As noted on the Division of Professional Regulation (DPR) website, the Board of Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Professionals regulates the practice of counseling for professional counselors of mental health (LPCMH), associate counselors of mental health (LAMCH), marriage and family therapists (LMFT) and chemical dependency professionals (LCDP). As a result, the Board licenses all qualified applicants; develops rules and regulations; and conducts disciplinary hearings and imposes disciplinary sanctions, when necessary according to Delaware Code 24, Chapter 30, § 3001-3019.

Since the inclusion of the Chemical Dependency membership in 2004 and the Marriage and Family Therapists in 2005, the Professional Counselors of Mental Health have set the stage and provided leadership in the regulation processes for both of these disciplines. Similarly, with the addition of the LMFT's, the board now will rotate in the leadership of the board amongst disciplines and public members to allow for full discussion and participation by all members. As a member of the Chemical Dependency discipline, I would like to say without the gifted mentoring of the LPCMH board members, our orienting to the board operations and processes would have consumed an immense amount of precious time. So I personally extend my thanks to current and past board members that represented the Professional Counselors in Mental Health, specifically, Dr. James Wilson, Jr., David Ciamaricone, and Jean Gunnells.

In closing, I personally invite you to attend one of our board meetings. It is clearly an educative process and may answer some questions you have on how policy and procedure occur with the regulation of licenses for these three disciplines. The MHCDP Board meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at 12:00 p.m. with the exception of July and August. All meetings are open to the general public and are held in the Cannon Building, 861 Silver Lake Blvd., Dover. Feel free to contact Tim Oswell, the board's administrative specialist. Tim may be contacted at timothy.oswell@state.de.us or 302) 744-4534. Hopefully we will see you there.

Respectfully,

R. Buskirk, LCDP, President